

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 19, and 22 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 1-26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection and/or the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. For at least the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate claims 1-26 as being allowed.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-26 because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to correct these and other minor informalities.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow or alter the scope of the claims, and have been merely made, as noted above, to correct a few minor informalities.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 9-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Examiner notes that certain features in claims 9, 14, 19, and 22 lack proper antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to correct these and other antecedent-based problems. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

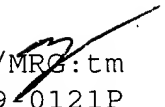
required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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